

02-277

**From:** Paula Thomason  
**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Thu, Apr 17, 2003 2:01 PM  
**Subject:** Further De-Regulation and Consolidation of the Media

Commissioners:

I am writing to urge you to reject further de-regulation and consolidation of the media.

There is nothing that means more to a democracy than an independent press. One only has to look at the Minister of Information in Iraq to see what a single voice in a large market means to truth and accuracy. Our nation was founded upon free and open debate. When you permit a single corporation to make the decisions about what is available for viewing/listening in a media market, you have effectively squelched debate.

If you make this decision based upon political leaning or corporate sponsorship, you will have ceded away one of the pillars of our society.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paula Thomason  
Danville, CA

A free press can reduce poverty and boost economic development in poor countries but the success of newspapers, radio and TV stations in spurring development depends on their independence, quality, and their ability to reach a wide audience, says a new book published by the World Bank.

Free and independent media can expose corruption in government and the corporate sector, provide a voice for the people/citizens to be heard, and help build public consensus to bring about change, says the book, *The Right to Tell - The Role of Mass Media in Economic Development*. They can also help markets work better by providing reliable economic information, from small-scale vegetable trading in Indonesia and Ghana, to global foreign currency and capital markets in London and New York.

"To reduce poverty, we must liberate access to information and improve the quality of information," World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn says in a foreword to the publication. "People with more information are empowered to make better choices. Free press is not a luxury for just rich countries. It is at the heart of equitable development. Institutions such as a free media that support transparency and the empowerment of the disenfranchised are essential."

<http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/righttotelloverview.html>

**From:** Jim Chase  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Thu, Apr 17, 2003 12:49 PM  
**Subject:** Please, Restore the Fairness Doctrine - Stop Media Conglomeration

Dear Commissioner:

Regarding the upcoming FCC vote, further consolidation of the media in the false name of "deregulation" must be halted and in fact reversed. TV and radio news in the hands of a handful of profit-driven corporations has undermined our democracy more than any other modern force except the high cost of broadcast commercials during elections. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide crucial unbiased information to the public about most public issues, most notably the drive to war in Iraq. As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to break up the media conglomerates, to open the spectrum to a wide diversity of organizations and independent journalists, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

Very Truly Yours,

/James R. Chase/  
San Francisco, CA

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**CC:** Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein, senator@boxer.senate.gov, senator@feinstein.senate.gov, sf.nancy@mail.house.gov

02-277

**From:** hapi22@earthlink.net  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Thu, Apr 17, 2003 11:22 AM  
**Subject:** DO NOT FAIL the American people

Dear Commissioner Powell:

Regarding the upcoming FCC vote, further consolidation of the media in the false name of "deregulation" must be halted and in fact reversed. TV and radio news in the hands of a handful of profit-driven corporations has undermined our democracy more than any other modern force except the high cost of broadcast commercials during elections.

The media companies have FAILED in their public trust to provide crucial UNBIASED information to the public about most public issues, most notably the drive to war in Iraq.

As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to

- \* break up the media conglomerates,
- \* open the spectrum to a wide diversity of organizations and independent journalists
- \* reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

The American airwaves belong to the American people and are to be operated on behalf of the American public's well-being. The American airwaves are not a trough at which wealthy political campaign contributors may feed.

I hope you will protect the American people's right to have access to as varied an assortment of opinions on public issues as is possible. To do anything less would be un-American.

Please DO NOT FAIL the American people in order to please wealthy, ideologically-driven media owners. Please.

Thank you,  
Lois Erwin